Involvement of Workers in Assessment of Plans

†1640. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that workers are always neglected in assessment of plans and construction works;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no accountability fixed for the lives of the workers working in major projects; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government for the workers engaged in the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) to (c) As workers play major role in construction works, cost involved in payment of wages to workers and their Welfare are always taken into account while making assessment of plans and construction works. In order to safeguard the interests of the construction workers and regulate the conditions of work and to provide health and safety measures for these workers, the Government have enacted the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Under this Act as well as under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 besides the responsibility for payment of wages, the employer is also required to pay compensation in case of injury resulting in temporary or permanent disability or death. There is also a provision for imprisonment in case of contravention of provisions regarding safety measures under the Building and Other Construction Workers (RECS) Act, 1966.

Exploitation of Child Labour

1641. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to check economic exploitation of child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated and being implemented by Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Employment of children below the age of 14 is prohibited in 13 Occupations and 57 Processes listed in the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986. The Central and State Governments are monitoring the enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 in their respective spheres. Employers found employing children in Occupations and Processes prohibited under the Act are prosecuted under the provisions of the Act.

The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of child labour withdrawn from work, namely the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the scheme of Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. Under these schemes, special schools/centres have been set up with provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care etc. So far, NCLPs have been sanctioned in 100 districts in 13 child labour endemic states for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

(c) Does not arise.

Workers in Organised/Unorganised Sectors

†1642. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government in respect of the number of workers working in the organised and unorganised sectors of the country, by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the number thereof in the two sectors; and

(c) the estimated number of workers in the said sectors by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment, unemployment

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.